Interleukin-11 receptor (IL-11R), and glycoprotein 130 (gp130), thereby decreasing the rate in loss of bone density in said mammalian patient.

2. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 1, which comprises administering to the patient an effective amount of a substance which inhibits, *in vivo*, the formation of a tertiary complex of IL-11, IL-11R, and gp130.

3. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 2, wherein the pathological condition is postmenopausal bone loss.

4. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 2, wherein the substance is a mutant IL-11R.

5. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim 4 or claim 8, wherein the mutant IL-11R has at least one mutation in its gp130 binding region.

6. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim 5, wherein the mutant IL-11R has at least one of the following mutations: D282→G282, A283→D283, G286→D286, H289→Y289, and V291→L291.

7. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim 6, wherein the mutant IL-11R has the mutation H289→Y289.

8. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim 4, wherein the mutant IL-11R is a soluble mutant IL-11R.

9. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim 4 or claim 8, wherein the mutant IL-11R is a human IL-11R.

10. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 2, wherein the substance is an anti IL-11 antibody.

11. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 2, wherein the substance is an IL-11 binding peptide.

12. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 11, wherein the substance is an IL-11 binding peptide having an amino acid sequence which specifically binds IL-11 in the region normally bound by IL-11R.

13. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim 12, wherein the substance is a peptide comprising the sequence identified by SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, or SEQ ID NO: 10.

14. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 2, wherein the substance is a small molecule no more than 30 kd in molecular weight.

15. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 2, wherein the substance is an IL-11 antagonist.

16. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 2, wherein the substance is an IL-11R binding peptide.

17. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 2, wherein the substance is an anti IL-11R antibody which inhibits interactions between IL-11 and the IL-11R.

18. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 2, wherein the substance is an anti IL-11R antibody which inhibits interactions between IL-11R and gp130.

40. (**Amended Twice**) A composition useful in inhibiting IL-11 / IL-11R binding comprising an antibody which specifically binds the IL-11R and blocks binding between IL-11 and IL-11R.

41. (**Amended Twice**) A composition useful in inhibiting IL-11R / gp130 binding via the gp130 binding site on IL-11R comprising an antibody which specifically binds the IL-11R and blocks binding between gp130 and IL-11R.

Please add the following new claim:

42. (**New**) The method of claim 13, wherein the peptide comprises a sequence identified by SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6.

The claims presented above incorporate changes as indicated by the marked-up versions below.

1. (**Amended Twice**) A method for inhibiting reduction of bone density in a mammalian patient having a pathological condition in which bone density is decreased, comprising inhibiting in the patient the formation of a tertiary complex of Interleukin-11 (IL-11), Interleukin-11 receptor (IL-11R), and glycoprotein 130 (gp130), thereby decreasing the rate in loss of bone density in said mammalian patient.

5. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim 4 or claim 8, wherein the ~~substance is a~~ mutant IL-11R has ~~with~~ at least one mutation in its gp130 binding region.

6. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim 5, wherein the ~~substance is a~~ mutant IL-11R has ~~having~~ at least one of the following mutations: D282→G282, A283→D283, G286→D286, H289→Y289, and V291→L291.

7. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim 6, wherein the ~~substance is a~~ mutant IL-11R has ~~having~~ the mutation H289→Y289.

8. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim ~~6~~ 4, wherein the ~~substance~~ mutant IL-11R is a soluble mutant IL-11R.

9. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim 4 or claim 8, wherein the mutant IL-11R is a human IL-11R.

13. (**Amended Twice**) The method of claim 12, wherein the substance is a peptide comprising the sequence identified by ~~SEQ ID No. 5~~ SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, or SEQ ID NO: 10.